

Balmullo quarry objectors 'take hope' from Perthshire ruling as planning application submitted

Fife campaigners are heartened by a decision to reject a similar quarry expansion in Dunkeld.

By **Claire Warrender**

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Balmullo Quarry campaigners are calling on locals to submit rejections to a planning application. Image: Finn Nixon/DC Thomson

Fife quarry campaigners are taking heart from a decision to block a similar development in Perthshire, as a planning application is finally lodged.

Controversial plans to expand Breedon Quarry in Balmullo were first unveiled two years ago.

Approval would allow the company to extract aggregate for a further 20 years.

However, many locals fear it would lead to an increase in dust, noise and vibrations as well as change the skyline by removing part of Lucklawhill.



Drone footage shows the scale of Balmullo quarry as it is now.

They say a determination by Perth and Kinross Council in November proves they could win their fight to stop it.

Officers there rejected plans to increase the size of Newtyle Hill slate quarry on the edge of Dunkeld.

They said the nature and scale of the proposal was not compatible with the surrounding area.

Refusal of [another quarry in Aberdeenshire](#) was upheld by the Scottish Reporter in 2023.

Balmullo quarry campaigner Sally Northcott said the concerns were similar in all three cases.

Health concerns from dust

She told The Courier: “Clearly we do have to take hope from any quarry rejection like that.

“In [the case of Dunkeld](#), it didn’t even go before councillors.

“Officers jut decided it under delegated powers.

“However, we wouldn’t want that to happen here because it could go the opposite way.

“We want it to go to councillors for a decision and I think that will be the likely process.”



The orange hatched section of the map shows the extent of the proposed expansion.

Expanding Balmullo quarry would allow Breedon to extract a further 3.2 million tonnes of aggregate and protect six jobs.

The extracted red material is used for driveway chippings, railway ballast and in various layers of pavement across the UK.

Residents are particularly worried about the creation of silica dust, which is released during the quarrying process.

The substance can cause lung cancer and other serious respiratory diseases.

Calls to object to Balmullo quarry planning application

Dr Northcott said: “The research on damage to health of silica dust is growing and only gets more worrying.

“Visible dust has been reported on windows and cars in Balmullo.”

Breedon says dust mitigation measures are in place and additional road sweeping and damping down will be employed during dry weather.

However, Dr Northcott says concerns remain.



The community fears the quarry expansion could change Lucklawhill for good.

And she is now urging people opposed to the Fife proposal to submit official objections before the March 28 deadline

She added that while many residents made their feelings known at consultation events in 2024, those comments will not count as official objections.

Nor will comments submitted to the Fife planning portal in relation to a separate environmental impact report last year.

“We will be distributing a leaflet on “How to Object” next week and also updating our website,” Dr Northcott said.

[The Balmullo Quarry planning application can be found here.](#)